

- An unclearly articulated and shifting model prevented testing the program's genuine rationale.

Other problems that were revealed included an unclear definition of who qualified as at-risk youth, and difficulty in making a shift from intervention programs for older youth to prevention programs for younger youth (2006).

No matter what the general drawbacks and previous program problems were, any absolute statements on the ability of the Spergel Model to succeed must be withheld until it can be consistently implemented according to plan.

Recommendations for Future Use of the Spergel Model

Any future use of the OJJDP Comprehensive Model either in part or in whole should first begin with a reading of the Implementation Guide available from the OJJDP (2002). This guide has been developed to clarify the goals of each committee within the Model, provide the questions which should be asked in order to accurately target the problem, and provide direction on several other key elements including additional literature to review.

The major challenge faced with future use of the Spergel Model is implementation in its entirety. While not possible in many scenarios due to limited resources, it must be replicated in this manner in order to verify its effectiveness as a whole. Even so, many communities could benefit from partial use of the Spergel Model based on a review of the Implementation Guide and development of projects that focus on two or more of the five core components. This partial approach can benefit committees in three ways: understanding the model as a whole, identifying which components would be the most applicable to their area, and maintaining a degree of comprehensiveness, albeit smaller, by focusing on two or more components instead of all five.

It may be possible for separate past programs to be redeveloped as parts